

Watch



First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: WATCH/COMMUNION

December 6, 2015

10:00 a.m.

**please stand in body or in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC “Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night” arr. *Leatherman*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Katie Estes

CENTERING SILENCE

INTROIT “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” *Yiddish folk song*
Festival Choir

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) The Spreigl Family

Advent is a path to our God, winding through the ordinary, weaving through the busyness, overcoming roadblocks and detours.

We watch for signs and wonders, a glimpse of the promise to come.

It is a way to go home: leaving the past in the past, moving from darkness and exile, coming into the light.

We watch for the messenger long awaited, yearning for the Word.

It is the road through our wilderness and the way through our fears, a chance to prepare and repent and be transformed by the story.

We watch for the peace, the glory and the love of Christmas.

As we light two candles on our Advent wreath, we wait with patience and watch in anticipation, trusting in God’s promise that hope is being born.

***HYMN** “We Are Marching in the Light of God” *Hymnal # 853*
with Drumming Circle

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison) Tom Watson

Holy God, we bow before you, knowing that you created us to be your people who walk by your example, but acknowledging that we have often chosen to go our own way. Instead of caring for each other we are careless with others. Instead of being responsible for this world you have given us we are greedy and use up the resources without thought for our children and grandchildren. We pretend to be your holy and dedicated servants while acting in rude and rebellious ways that bring shame to your name. Forgive us, loving God, turn us around, put things right in our lives, redress the wrongs within us, and save us from ourselves in Christ’s name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (responsive)

Good news! God has done great things for us:

We are loved, we are forgiven, we are claimed by God's grace.

**Even now, the love of God is expanding our knowledge,
sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for excellence.**

Thanks be to God!

***RESPONSE**

“Like a Child”

(v. 2 only)

See Insert

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Nancy Lindberg

God of the prophets, whose salvation is freely offered to all flesh, open our imagination today to participate in your truth. May ancient words hold for us a fresh message that engages our best efforts. Straighten the crooked ways and smooth out the rough places in our lives, that we may share your good news with all the world. Amen.

PROPHET

Malachi 3: 1-4

O.T. p. 889

ANTHEM

“Shine On Us”

arr. Sterling

Connie Prall, soloist

*Lord, let Your light, light of Your face shine on us
that we may be saved, that we may have life,
to find our way in the darkest night, let Your light shine on us.
Lord, let Your grace, grace from Your hand fall on us.
Lord, let Your love, love with no end come over us.*

GOSPEL

Luke 3: 1-6

N.T. p. 60

SERMON

Recognizing Repentance...Seeing Salvation

Katie Estes

RECEPTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

INVITATION TO SHARE

PIANO DUET

“Advent Medley”

arr. Rogers

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMN “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

Hymnal # 509

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul

535 20th Avenue North, South St. Paul, MN 55075

651-451-6223 · www.fpcssp.org

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul. We are delighted that you have joined us to worship the Living God. **If you are a first time worship guest**, we extend a special welcome to you. Know that as our guest, you are invited to participate in any of the programs offered and we do not expect you to contribute when the offering is received. Today, your presence with us is your offering to God.

Photos and/or video may be taken during this worship service. FPC-SSP reserves the right to use said photos or video in church publications, including, but not limited to, bulletins, newsletters, the church website, and social media sites. If you prefer not to appear in these photos or video, please talk to one of the ushers.

If you have a prayer request, please use the yellow request cards in the pews. Give the card to an usher before worship or during the first hymn so it can be included in our prayers of the people today and passed on to the prayer chain as well.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship service. We also have professional childcare available for infants and children up to 5 years. The nursery is located at the top of the stairs in the upper level of the Education wing and is always available on those days your child may be restless. If you have an infant who begins to cry during the service, feel free to go into the library with your child and continue to hear the service on the speaker.

Please join us after the worship service for a time of fellowship in the Commons. Coffee, juice and treats are available for a minimal charge for members and at no cost for guests. Come and connect with old and new friends as we enjoy fellowship together.

On The Calendar

Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent, Communion

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 11:00 a.m. Voices of the Heart
- 11:15 a.m. Instrumental Ensemble
- 11:30 a.m. Kids Club
- 11:30 a.m. Membership Inquiry Class
- 2:00 p.m. Deacons Adopt-a-Family Shopping

Monday, December 7

- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, December 9

- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Jubilation Ringers
- 6:15 p.m. Bells of Praise
- 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 7:15 p.m. Festival Choir

Thursday, December 10

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Finance
- 6:30 p.m. Personnel
- 7:00 p.m. Mission

Friday, December 11

- 7:00 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday, December 12

- 8:30 a.m. Book Group
- 10:00 a.m. Library Committee
- 6:00 p.m. Senior High Christmas Party

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent, Baptism

- 8:30 a.m. Education for All
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch & Christmas Caroling
- 12:00 p.m. Conf. Christmas Party

Next Sunday, December 13



Scripture: Luke 3: 7-18

Theme: Third Sunday of Advent: Announce/Baptism

Music: “Largo from Winter” Vivaldi

Adult Education: “South St. Paul: A Brief History” with Lois Glewwe

Announcements

Don't forget your Scrip! Please note that next Sunday, December 13, is the last day to order scrip to have before Christmas – an order placed on the 13th will be available for pickup on the 20th.

Kids Club: Those going to SteppingStone Theater today should meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 for lunch.

Today we will shop for our families through Adopt-a-Family. Participants are still needed. Be here at 2:00 p.m. - we'll divide into groups and head to Target in West St. Paul to shop using Scrip cards. Monetary donations of any size are still needed to cover the cost—please indicate “*Deacons* Adopt-a-Family” on your donation.

Membership Inquiry Class & Lunch, following worship this morning. Are you interested in finding out more about joining this congregation? Are you wondering what it means to be “Presbyterian?” You are invited to the Knox room for lunch and to learn more about our congregation and active membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Attendance does not obligate you to join, but will hopefully help you in making that decision.

Who is in the mood for Christmas caroling? Next Sunday, December 13, we will gather after worship for a soup lunch, then head out to go caroling to some of our homebound members. This is a great event for everyone regardless of your singing abilities - families are especially welcome! Song sheets will be provided, sign-up on the sheet on the kiosk in the Commons.

Today we kick-off the initiative for our next all-church service project benefitting *The Link*. On January 31, we will be assembling hygiene kits, but first we must raise the funds to purchase the items! The suggested donation per kit is \$10, but you may give any amount. Either place a check in the offering plate with “The Link” in the memo line, or stop by the table in the Commons after worship to donate and receive a gift-acknowledgement card to give as a gift this Christmas.

You won't want to miss next Sunday's Adult Education class! FPC-SSP member, Lois Glewwe, will be unveiling her new book “South St. Paul: A Brief History.” She will present a slide show and talk about the book, and the class will be filmed by the local Town Square TV. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the class and in the commons after worship.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to give the gift of life this holiday season? You can by volunteering to pack meals at *Feed My Starving Children*. The meals that we pack are full of vitamins and help to save the life of impoverished children all over the world. Our next date to go to FMSC is December 14, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. Sign up at the kiosk!

Sent: *Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas* is our Wednesday Bible study for the season of Advent, meeting each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This study includes brief readings, a ten-minute DVD story, and great discussion. This is a perfect short-term commitment to deepening your faith journey and your celebration of the hectic season—please come join us!